

Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • JUNE 2001

OPC Panel Discussion:

Laws That Insult World Press Freedom

by John Langone

Freedom of the Press Committee

At an observance of World Press Freedom Day on May 3 at Overseas Press Club headquarters, a distinguished panel representing influential press freedom organizations hammered away at the theme that while there is evidence that press freedom has expanded in some areas, the stubborn retention in many countries of so-called insult laws—laws that make it a crime to offend the “honor and dignity” of public officials and institutions—threaten freedom of expression even in nations rated as democracies.

“The good news is that fewer people are being killed and jailed,” said OPC President Larry Martz, who served as moderator of the meeting, “but the bad news is that new ways have been found to keep journalists down.”

The event coincided with an international conference on the status of world press freedom held in Windhoek, Namibia. The OPC panel included James H. Ottaway Jr., chairman of the World Press Freedom Committee and vice president of Dow Jones & Co.; Professor Ruth Walden, director of graduate studies at the University of North Carolina Journalism School and author of the widely-acclaimed study, “Insult Laws: An Insult to Press Freedom”; Marylene Smeets,

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Panelists (L-R): Ruth Walden, Kristen Guida, Larry Martz (moderator), James Ottaway, Marylene Smeets and Norman Schorr (Freedom of the Press Committee).

OPC Plans News Conference By Milosevic Prosecutor

by Sonya K. Fry

Carla Del Ponte, Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, will be in New York City at the end of June and the OPC is planning to schedule a news conference.

Carla Del Ponte will be the prosecutor of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic if the new government in Belgrade is able to pass a transference law that would allow Milosevic to be transferred legally to The Hague. She was appointed by the UN Security Council to the posi-

tion of Chief Prosecutor in August 1999.

Previously she studied law in Great Britain, Bern and Geneva and in 1994 she was nominated Attorney General of Switzerland. Her major fields of activity on a national and international level included fighting organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, and illegal trafficking in arms.

The exact date and time of the press conference is still to be scheduled at the printing of the *Bulletin*, but the tentative dates are June 25 or 26th.



Carla Del Ponte

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Participants at European Federation of Press Clubs spring meeting in Geneva.

Geneva Hosts Meeting of European Press Clubs

by Sonya K. Fry

The Geneva Press Club is named La Pastorale because it is a lovely old house situated in a park setting with large trees and a vista of the Alps—quite a different setting than my basement office in bustling midtown New York. Geneva was host this year to the European Federation of Press Clubs annual spring meeting. The OPC was invited to attend the meeting to discuss the possibility of the European Federation visiting New York City and our press club. Details are still to be worked out, but it was decided that October of 2002 would

be mutually agreeable.

Press clubs from the European cities of Paris, Milano, Liege, Vienna and Barcelona attended the Geneva Press Club conference, but in addition, the National Press Club in Washington, the OPC from New York, the Bulgaria Press Club, Dubai Press Club and Kazakhstan Press Club were invited guests. It was very enlightening to see how creatively the newly formed press clubs in Sofia, Bulgaria and Kazakhstan have developed in a post-Communist society.

Dubai will be inviting all the press clubs of the world to a forum in Novem-

ber with the hopes of forming an international press club organization. There was much discussion about this concept of a world-wide federation of press clubs with a particular focus on freedom of the press issues.

In addition to a glorious day on a boat on Lac Leman (Lake Geneva), and receptions in beautiful historic rooms courtesy of the City and Cantons of Geneva, we visited the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and the United Nations. (Unfortunately for us Kofi Annan was there for the World Health Organization annual meeting so we didn't get to see much of the UN.)

OPC member Robert Kroon, the new President of the UN Correspondents Association (see page 4 in "People") was a gracious host regaling me with many stories of his career in Indonesia, translator for the US Army during World War II and now correspondent for *Time* and the *International Herald Tribune*.

One of the highlights of the two-day meetings was a press conference by Carla Del Ponte, Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. The press conference was conducted in French and English. The Swiss are incredibly adept at changing languages at the drop of a hat impressing the heck out of this American. The Prosecutor plans to be at the United Nations at the end of June and the OPC is in the process of trying to arrange a press conference here in New York. (See story on Page 1 and stay tuned.)

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PRESS FREEDOM

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coordinator of the Americas program of the Committee to Protect Journalists; and Kristen Guida, senior researcher at Freedom House.

Setting the tone of the discussion, Walden reported on how "insult laws" — which spring from the ancient concept of the divine right of kings and the notion that the monarch can do no wrong—have become the disturbing basis for restricting and punishing journalists who write articles critical of their countries' leaders. In Iran, for example, insulting religious leaders or "publishing anything harmful to Islamic principles," is punishable by up to 74 lashes, imprisonment, and even death. Among the other examples Walden recounted were the charges brought against Andrew Finkel, a *Time* magazine stringer by Turkish authorities for "insulting the army"—an accusation that stemmed from an article in which Finkel appeared to compare the army, battling Kurdish rebels, to an "occupying army." In Turkey, too, prize-winning poet-journalist Yilmaz Odabasi drew 18 months in prison for "insulting Mustafa Kemal Ataturk" in a book of poetry. In the Ivory Coast, the criminal code deems "any expression that is offensive or contemptuous" about the president's public or private life a criminal act punishable by imprisonment and fines. In one case that borders on the ludicrous, two journalists were jailed for writing satirical articles suggesting that the president's presence at a soccer game had brought bad luck to the Ivory Coast team which lost in a championship cup final to South Africa.

In her presentation, Smeets reported on how criminal defamation laws in Latin America are being used to prosecute and imprison journalists for criticizing heads of state and other top officials. At least 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries still have desacato, or insult, laws on their books, and though there have been some improvements and journalists have had convictions overturned, the laws are still used, albeit sporadically, as a convenient cover for government officials who do not wish to answer for their actions.

In announcing her organization's traditional print and broadcast press freedom findings around the world, Guida noted that of the 187 countries surveyed, 72 are considered free, with no significant restrictions on the media; 53 were rated partly free with some media restric-

tions; and 62 rated not free, a rating marked by state control or "other obstacles" to a free press. "There have been overall gains," Guida said, "but we have to remember that a change in government may benefit the press but doesn't guarantee freedom."

One bright note from Freedom House's findings was that free expression on the Internet exceeds the levels of press freedom in most countries, including some closed societies governed by censorious regimes. Of 131 countries studied, 58 percent are considered to have least restrictive access to the net; 55 percent are considered moderately restrictive, and 18 percent are rated most restrictive. The findings, Guida noted, make it clear that Internet freedoms outpace press freedoms, a situation that poses an online dilemma for repressive governments which are unable to fully control the web.

Ottaway urged the media to "use its access to speak out more often" since there can be no human progress without a

free press. At a previous media conference in South Africa, Ottaway and his colleague, Leonard H. Marks, treasurer of the World Press Freedom Committee, expressed sentiments that all journalists need to hear. "Everyone, even a president, has a legitimate right to protect his reputation if it is unjustly attacked," they said. "But no special laws are needed. For that purpose there are general laws against libel and slander. (Insult) laws are signs of weakness. Governments that resort to them fear their press and public and want to suppress truly free expression. We need to stop merely hacking at the constantly reappearing branches of these weed trees and start on the harder but longer-lasting work of rooting them out. We need to see to it that these insult laws are finally recognized for what they really are—an insult to democracy, an insult to human rights, and for us in the news media, a special insult to press freedom."

Three Women Win IWWMF Courage Awards

The International Women's Media Foundation (IWWMF) has selected three women journalists from Colombia, Spain and Sudan to receive 2001 Courage in Journalism Awards "in recognition of their pursuit of integrity in journalism, despite assaults, death threats and risks to their livelihoods and lives."

CNN's Judy Woodruff, chair of the Courage in Journalism awards, said: "By honoring them, we are turning a spotlight on those parts of the world where press freedom does not exist and where women journalists toil in extreme conditions to bring the truth into the open."

Here is the IWWMF's description of the winners and their bravery:

"Jineth Bedoya Lima, a 27-year-old reporter for *El Espectador* in Bogota, Colombia, covers the conflict between the government and paramilitary groups. In May 2000, she went to interview a paramilitary leader in a Colombian prison, but was instead kidnapped at gunpoint, beaten and raped by suspected military gunmen. Today she goes to work in an armored car accompanied by armed bodyguards. She has vowed to continue reporting in her country even though many other journalists have fled after

receiving death threats.

"Carmen Gurruchaga covers the Basque separatist movement for the Madrid-based daily, *El Mundo*. In 1997, Gurruchaga, who is herself Basque, was working in the paper's San Sebastian bureau when ETA, a Basque separatist group, planted a bomb in her home. Gurruchaga and her two young sons escaped, but she was forced to move to Madrid for her safety. She continues reporting, sometimes under the protection of a bodyguard.

"Amal Abbas is the only female editor-in-chief of a publication in Sudan. Her newspaper, *Al-Rai Al-Akher*, is one of the leading independent dailies in the country. As editor, Abbas has aggressively pursued stories that have unearthed corruption among Sudanese officials, earning stiff fines for her paper and jail terms for herself."

The IWWMF also announced that its Lifetime Achievement Award for 2001 will go to Colleen "Koky" Dishon, "an innovator who helped revolutionize feature coverage in American newspapers." She was the first woman on the masthead of the *Chicago Tribune*.



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia: After nearly four years as *Los Angeles Times* bureau chief in Hanoi, OPC member **David Lamb** reported to the *Bulletin* in April: "I pull up stakes in Hanoi next week and head back to the States." Now home in Alexandria, Lamb said he's taking a leave to write a book on Vietnam and then will rejoin the *LA Times* in Washington. David covered the Vietnam War for UPI. So far as the "People" columnist knows, he is the only Vietnam War correspondent to be based in Vietnam after the war ended, although several have returned on short reporting and reunion trips.

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland: President John F. Kennedy's administration frowned on unauthorized comments to the press from top military officers. During the 1960s, OPC member **Elias P. Demetracopoulos** interviewed Admirals Arleigh A. Burke and George W. Anderson when they were chiefs of U.S. Naval Operations and Admiral Charles B. Brown when he commanded allied forces in southern Europe. In his article in the May *Proceedings*, a magazine published by the U.S. Naval Institute, Demetracopoulos describes how a Washington plot got him fired from *The*

New York Herald Tribune News Service because of the interviews. But the admirals came to his defense.

In his article titled "Admirals Strike a Blow for the Press," Demetracopoulos, a Greek journalist living in Washington, writes: "All three [admirals] granted me interviews on the record. All raised a furor, not so much for their content as for the simple fact that they were given to me. Most astounding and offensive—not just to me personally but to the spirit and substance of democratic practice—was that they prompted a campaign to have me fired by my employer, *The New York Herald Tribune* News Service. Even more astounding was that the newspaper acceded to Central Intelligence Agency pressure to do just that. Later, the agency acknowledged that it has been unfair and told *The Herald Tribune* it could rehire me, which it did immediately."

BERLIN: OPC board member **Roger Cohen**, *The New York Times* Berlin bureau chief who has been based in seven cities on two continents for three news organizations, is scheduled to return to New York City late this summer to become *Times* deputy foreign editor. Cohen was a *Times* correspondent in Paris and Zagreb bureau chief before moving to Berlin. Earlier he opened bureaus in Rio de Janeiro and Rome for *The Wall Street Journal* and reported from London, Brussels and Rome for Reuters.

Cohen covered the Bosnian war, winning the 1995 OPC Eric and Amy Burger Award on human rights for his investigation of torture and murder at a Serb-run Bosnian camp. He also has won the Arthur F. Burns Prize, awarded by the German Foreign Ministry, for commentary on German-American relations; the Peter Weitz Prize, awarded by the German Marshall Fund for correspondence from Europe; and the Joe Alex Morris Jr. lectureship award from the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University, given annually for

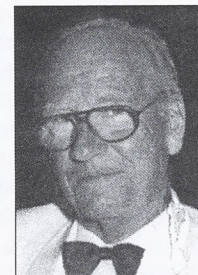


Roger Cohen

distinguished foreign correspondence. Cohen, who has been covering Germany, Austria and Eastern Europe since 1998, is the author of "Hearts Grown Brutal: Sagas of Sarajevo" [New York: Random House, 1998].

CHICAGO: In June, **Gary Kunich** ended his tour with *European Stars & Stripes* in Germany and moved to Chicago to teach journalism at the Military Entrance Processing Command to soldiers assigned to public affairs. "I've filled my burgeoning belly with a goodly amount of German brew, indulged in fine Italian Merlots and found partaking in sloth around many European cafes to be relatively enjoyable," he told the *Stars & Stripes Association News*, the military paper's alumni newsletter.

GENEVA: OPC member **Robert Kroon**, a Dutch journalist, has been elected president of the United Nations Correspondents Association that represents some 130 correspondents working at the Palais des Nations, cradle and grave of the League of Nations and now the U.N.'s European headquarters. Kroon reports for the Netherlands Press Association and contributes to *Time*. Earlier he reported for the magazine from East Timor, the Congo, Iran and former Soviet-bloc countries. In a report to the *Bulletin*, Kroon wrote: "During the April assembly of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, we [Correspondents Association] invited Falun Gong representatives for a meeting in our library, which triggered a head-on collision with the Chinese government." China's permanent mission in Geneva accused the Association "of anti-Chinese bias by conniving with an evil sect," Kroon reported, but the press briefing with Falun Gong was held.



Robert Kroon

HAMDEN, Connecticut: **Peter Jennings**, an ABC correspondent in the Middle East, Africa and Europe before he became the network's national anchor in New York, in May received the 2001 Fred Friendly First Amendment Award, awarded annually by Quinnipiac University to a journalist showing commitment to free speech and free press.

duPont Awards Deadlines

The applications deadline for the Alfred I. duPont Columbia University Awards for excellence in broadcast journalism has been set for July 15 for television or radio broadcasts running two-hours or less and June 15 for those running longer.

Applications and accompanying material should be sent to:

The Alfred I. duPont Center for Broadcast Journalism, Columbia University, Graduate School of Journalism, 2950 Broadway, MC 3805, New York, NY 10027.

For information call (212) 854-5047 or e-mail dupont@jrn.columbia.edu

HILO, Hawaii: John Needham, a *Los Angeles Times* editorial writer, remains a reporter at heart. The former UPI correspondent in Asia figured something was up this spring when he visited the W. M. Keck Observatory, located atop Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano, at 13,600 feet. The place was swarming with Secret Service agents. Needham soon discovered that former Vice President Al Gore and daughter Sarah were at the Observatory on an unannounced visit. Needham immediately tipped off Hilo's *Hawaii Tribune-Herald*.

KIEV, Ukraine: A headless body found near Kiev in November has been identified as that of missing journalist **Georgy Gongadze**, 31, Ukraine's deputy prosecutor general announced in May. The identification was made by FBI experts from the United States. Gongadze was an editor of an Internet newsletter and a critic of alleged government corruption. He disappeared last September. **Patrick E. Tyler** of *The New York Times* reported: "The disappearance of Mr. Gongadze set off a political crisis when secret recordings were released indicating that President Leonid D. Kuchma asked his security chief to 'get rid' of the journalist."

But a few days after the body was identified, the government claimed Gongadze was killed by two criminals, with no ties to politics, who later were killed by two gangsters who were arrested. President Kuchma's interior minister, Yuri Smirnov, told the press: "As minister, I consider this case solved. The two perpetrators have died. No one organized it, because it was a spontaneous event."

But the chief investigating judge in the killing rejected the interior minister's claim, saying it is "still too soon to say that the murder of the journalist has been solved." **Michael Wines** of *The New York Times* reported: "Wielding adjectives like 'stupid' and 'plodding,' critics of President Leonid Kuchma heaped ridicule today [May 16] on a government claim that a leading opposition journalist was killed not for political reasons but randomly, by two hooligans who were themselves killed later."

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee: OPC member **Ronda Robinson** now is writing for television and *America Profile*, a weekly launched last year as a supplement for community newspapers. Calling its audience "hometown America," the



Ronda Robinson with OPC mascot Merlin

magazine now has a circulation of 3 million. Also this spring, Ronda started her first TV reporting, writing for the cable channel "Home and Garden Television." She also writes for the daily *Jerusalem Post* and the magazine *Jerusalem Report*. After freelancing in Israel, Robinson lived for about a year in upstate New York but moved back to Knoxville, her hometown, two days after attending the April OPC Awards Dinner. "It was a cold winter in New York, and I decided there is no place like home," she told the *Bulletin*.

LONDON: Caroline Moorehead, who is writing a biography of **Martha Gellhorn**, wants to hear from anyone who remembers Gellhorn when she reported from the Vietnam War for



Martha Gellhorn

The Guardian of London and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Gellhorn, who died in 1998 at age 89, was a former wife of **Ernest Hemingway**. She also covered the Spanish Civil War, World War II in Asia and Europe, Israel's Six-Day War, Lebanon, Panama and other conflicts. Moorehead told the *Bulletin* that the biography will be published by Chatto and Windus in the U.K. and Henry Holt in New York. Contact Caroline Moorehead, 89 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 8LB, England. E-mail: cmmoorehead@clara.co.uk

Time has published a European edition since 1973, but it remained viewed as an American magazine, co-editor **Donald Morrison** said. To change that perception, the European edition in April started publishing more articles about Europe and fewer about the United States. "And so a recent cover story on the human genome delved into the genetic differences between the Basques, the Spanish and the French and the similari-

ties between Hungarians and surrounding Slavs, nuances largely lost on non-Europeans," **Suzanne Kapner** wrote in *The New York Times*. The first European-slanted issue increased *Time*'s newsstand sales at least one-third in Britain, France and Germany compared with the previous issue. But some critics doubt the magazine will be able to shed its American personality. "It's like McDonald's trying to become an authentic French bistro," *The Times* quoted OPC member **Fareed Zakaria**, editor of *Newsweek International*. "We don't try to hide what we are [an American magazine]." *Time*'s



Time Europe

(Continued on Page 6)

Welcome to Our New Members

Tobias J. Bermant

Counsel
Sabin, Bermant + Gould
associate resident

David Holmberg

Freelance Writer
active resident

Bradley K. Martin

Tokyo Bureau Chief
Asian Financial Intelligence Ltd.
active overseas

Paula Alyce Scully

Photojournalist
Gamma Press
active resident

Peter Michael Stein

Managing Editor
The Asian Wall Street Journal
Hong Kong
active overseas

Maynard Frank Wolfe

Retired Photographer
Time, Inc.
associate resident

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

George Bookman, chair
Elinor Griest
Marshall Loeb
Dwight Sargent

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 5)

European co-editors, **Donald Morrison** and his wife, **Ann**, both 54, transferred recently to their new posts in London from Hong Kong, where he was editor of *Time Asia* and she was editor of *Asiaweek*, owned by *Time*.

LONGMONT, Colorado: **Don Davis**, a former Vietnam War, space mission and White House correspondent with UPI and later a political writer and columnist at *The San Diego Union*, is one of three defendants in an \$80 million libel suit filed this year by Patsy and John Ramsey, parents of 6-year-old JonBenét Ramsey, whose 1996 murder has never been solved. The other defendants are **Steve Thomas**, a former Boulder, Colorado, lead detective in the Ramsey investigation, and St. Martin's Press.

Last year, St. Martin's published the Thomas-Davis book "JonBenét: Inside the Ramsey Murder Investigation" that became a *New York Times* best seller (June 2000 *Bulletin*). The book contends that Patsy accidentally killed her daughter and wrote a ransom note to cast suspicion on an unknown assailant outside the family. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey deny any part in the murder and have written their own book on the loss of their daughter.

Several years ago, Davis left the newspaper business and moved to Longmont near Boulder, where JonBenét was killed. He now is working on two new book projects and keeps in shape by playing left field on an over-50 softball team.

LOS ANGELES: OPC member **Murray Fromson**, a longtime correspondent in Asia and now a journalism professor at the University of Southern California, six of his graduate students and his wife **Dodi** left May 14 to spend six weeks in Hong Kong and mainland China. For four weeks, the students are interning at Hong Kong TV, **Rupert Murdoch's** Star TV and in the *Los Angeles Times* bureau. They then will visit China for two weeks. While the students work in Hong Kong, Murray and Dodi, observing their 40th wedding anniversary, will make a side trip to Vietnam. An Asian antique dealer, Dodi will poke around villages where traditional Vietnamese textiles are woven. Starting as a *Stars & Stripes* correspondent covering the Korean War, Fromson reported for AP and later CBS News

in Asia, including the Vietnam War.

OPC member **David Horowitz**, a consumer commentator, joined Talk Radio Network this spring to broadcast the show, "Fight Back! Talk Back! with David Horowitz." The live program is carried by more than 200 stations coast-to-coast and airs on Saturdays from 9 to 11 p.m. (Eastern time) and Sundays 7 to 9 p.m. Streaming audio can be heard on www.talkradionetwork.com and www.fightback.com. Before turning to consumer problems, Horowitz was an NBC News correspondent and cameraman covering the Vietnam War.

MBABANE, Swaziland: OPC member **Rachel L. Swarns**, *The New York Times* Johannesburg bureau chief, reported that Swaziland's government suspended publication of the independent newspaper the *Guardian* in May, arrested its editor and impounded all copies of the weekly. "The newspaper incurred the anger of the authorities when it reported on rumors that King Mswati III was ill and had been poisoned by one of his seven wives," Swarns wrote.

MOSCOW: **Vladimir Gusinsky's** Russian media empire, Media-Most, has been the loudest critic of President Vladimir V. Putin. But in recent weeks, Gusinsky lost control of his television network, newspaper and news magazine in a battle with his biggest investor, Russia's natural gas monopoly Gazprom, which is 38.4 percent owned by the state.

In a letter to President Putin, the OPC protested "the ongoing insult to free expression at the Moscow offices of Media-Most." Gusinsky argues that Gazprom is cooperating with the Kremlin to silence him. But Gazprom executive **Alfred Kokh** says Gusinsky is at fault, saddling Media-Most with \$1.5 billion in debt. Fallout from the struggle has impacted internationally.

Newsweek, the only U.S. weekly news magazine in a significant partnership with a Russian media company, ended its partnership with the weekly news magazine *Itogi* after dissident shareholders seized control of *Itogi* from Gusinsky. **Richard M. Smith**, *Newsweek's* chairman, said,



Itogi magazine



Boris Jordan

"*Newsweek* will no longer send editorial material to *Itogi* or sell advertising for the magazine."

In another development, American financier **Boris Jordan**, a third-generation Russian-American, was named director of NTV, Russia's independent TV network that formerly was controlled by Gusinsky. When he was fresh out of New York University, Jordan, a descendant of Russian aristocrats, landed a job as a Moscow representative of Credit Suisse First Boston. He cultivated close ties with Russian business and political leaders, and persuaded Western investors to bring their money to Russia. Gusinsky had negotiated with CNN founder **Ted Turner** to sell his interest in NTV. But Gusinsky said the Russian government thwarted the deal because it knew it could not control Turner.

On May 4, **Kevin McDermott** and **Norman A. Schorr**, co-chairmen of the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee, fired off a letter to President Putin: "The strong-arm tactics of Gazprom, your government's energy monopoly, with respect to Media-Most television station NTV have provoked outrage around the world....We stand with our colleagues at NTV, TNT and *Itogi* magazine, the joint venture between Media-Most and *Newsweek* whose staffers were offered the choice of resigning or being fired....We urge you to use your authority to restore the independence and private ownership of Media-Most and its properties."

Speaking at Washington's National Press Club in May, Gusinsky, 48, said Western leaders should draw "red lines" with Russian leaders "and beyond these lines one cannot go if one wants to live in a civilized world....This is the free press, this is human rights, and it is many, many other things that have to happen in Russia for it to be able to call it a civilized country."

NEW YORK: Attendance at the Broadway play "Judgment at Nurem-



Vladimir Gusinsky

berg" was lagging this spring until OPC member **Walter Cronkite** made a 60-second advertising recording for it. Broadcast on New York City radio stations, Cronkite's pitch pushed attendance from 36.1 percent of Longacre Theater's seats to 52.19 percent in one week. But still playing to half-filled houses, "Nuremberg" closed May 13, earlier than scheduled. In his commercial, Cronkite, who covered the Nuremberg Nazi war crime trials, said, "If you see one show on Broadway this spring, make it 'Judgment at Nuremberg.'" But he told *The New York Times* he would never have made a commercial ad when he was the CBS Evening News anchor. "I just did it as a favor for Tony [Randall, whose National Actors Theater produced the play], and I don't expect to have a similar set of circumstances again," Cronkite said.

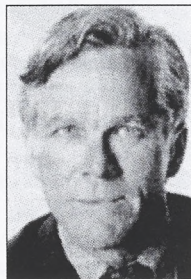
At *The New York Times*, foreign assignments are good for careers: **Joseph Lelyveld**—Congo, New Delhi, Hong Kong, London and an OPC Award winner. **Howell Raines**—London. **Bill Keller**—Moscow, Johannesburg. On May 22, **Arthur Sulzberger Jr.**, London for AP before he became *Times* publisher, announced that Raines, 58, now *Times* editorial page editor, will succeed Lelyveld, 64, as the newspaper's executive editor in September. Sulzberger said Keller, 52, managing editor, was a candidate to succeed Lelyveld and "will continue to make his career at *The Times*." New York's *Daily News* speculated that Keller "was considered too young" for the top editorial job. Lelyveld's book on South Africa's racial turmoil, "Move Your Shadow," won a 1986 OPC Award and a Pulitzer Prize. Raines and Keller also have won Pulitzers.



Joseph Lelyveld



Howell Raines



Bill Keller

In May, two OPC members who know war up front came to the defense of former U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey, who in 1969 when he was a Navy SEAL officer led a raid on a Mekong Delta village in which women and children were killed.

OPC board member **Peter Arnett**, who won a 1966 Pulitzer Prize while covering the Vietnam War for AP, wrote in *USA Today*: "[By 1965] I had already



Peter Arnett

learned in three years of covering Vietnam that there was little concern about civilians who got in the way of the war.... Kerrey and his men are accused of killing women and children who got 'in the way' of their late-night mission. While covering Vietnam, I saw many actions in which civilians 'in the way' were killed during military operations.... There was Ben Tre, where a surviving U.S. major drove me through the wreckage of a city where more than 400 civilians had been killed by artillery fire, commenting matter-of-factly, 'Well, we had to destroy the town in order to save it.'

Kerrey said his team fired into darkness without knowing they hit civilians, but one of his men charged the civilians were killed deliberately. "I know from personal experience where this can lead," Arnett wrote, recalling the trouble that forced him out of CNN, where he was a foreign correspondent after leaving AP. "CNN's gullibility in accepting tales woven by a pair of seemingly believable veterans led to its 1998 Tailwind story about the alleged use of nerve gas in Laos 30 years earlier. Then came the hurried retraction and the sudden end of my 40-year career as a war correspondent because I'd narrated the story."

Andy Rooney, a World War II reporter for *Stars and Stripes* who won a Bronze Star for bravery shortly after the Normandy landing, wrote in his newspaper column: "I saw evidence that American soldiers killed captured German soldiers instead of taking them prisoner. A company of infantrymen moving forward in the face of enemy fire could not handle prisoners; they had no way to imprison them, no way to feed them and in the heat of battle, no way to move them to the rear.... Unless you are one of the dwindling number of veterans

who actually saw combat, you have no business making any judgment about Bob Kerrey. He was living with the possibility of his own death every minute of every day in Vietnam.... If Bob Kerrey gives back his Bronze Star, I should give mine back."

Meanwhile, **Andy Rooney** reports that **Charles F. Kiley Sr.**, 87, who died in January (March *Bulletin*), was one of the last survivors among six U.S. military journalists who started daily publication of *Stars & Stripes* "in the bowels of *The Times*, just off Fleet Street" in London during World War II. "He was one of the best-liked and most prolific writers on a staff that grew to include 12 reporters by the time of the invasion, June 6, 1944," Rooney, also an S&S veteran and now a commentator on CBS News' "60 Minutes," wrote in the April *European-Pacific Stars and Stripes Association News*. Kiley helped put out the first issue of the military daily in France after the Normandy landing and was the pool reporter for more than 50 other newspapers and press associations at Germany's May 1945 surrender in a Reims, France, schoolhouse. After the war, Kiley worked as a reporter and editor for the *New York Herald Tribune* and the *New York Law Journal*.



Andy Rooney

For her book "Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran" [The Free Press], **Elaine Sciolino**, a former *New York Times* foreign correspondent and now a *Times* Washington reporter, this spring won the \$15,000 Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism, sponsored by the New York Public Library. In April, her book won an OPC citation. After Sciolino spoke at an OPC program last October, former OPC president **Bill Holstein** wrote in the *Bulletin*: "She talks about her two-decade long fascination with Iran, she pours on more charm and passion, combined with a keen eye for detail.... Everybody is blown away by her energy, wit and knowledge of a faraway place."

Ian Johnson, deputy Beijing bureau chief of *The Wall Street Journal* who won a Pulitzer Prize and OPC award this

(Continued on Page 8)

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 7)

year for his reports on China's suppression of the Falun Gong (May *Bulletin*), is scheduled to become the global *Journal's* Germany bureau chief.



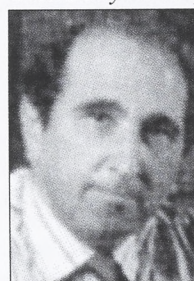
Ian Johnson

Neal Shapiro, 43, executive producer of "Dateline," NBC's magazine program, was named president of NBC News in May, succeeding **Andrew Lack**, 53, who became president and CEO of NBC. Lack, who ran NBC News for seven years, succeeded **Bob Wright**,



Neal Shapiro

58, who was promoted to NBC chairman. OPC member **Tom Brokaw**, NBC News anchor, praised Shapiro's appointment but said he faces challenges. "One of the things he's going to have to deal with is the trials of this economy and the effects it's going to have on our business," the *New York Daily News* quoted Brokaw.



Andrew Lack



Bob Wright

AP foreign correspondents on the move: **Dan Perry**, chief of Caribbean services, from San Juan to Jerusalem bureau chief. **Bob Reid**, Vienna bureau chief, to European news editor in Brussels. **Barry Renfrew**, Moscow bureau chief to Sydney bureau chief. **Alex Stavitsky**, Madrid senior TV news producer to Washington regional TV editor for Latin America. **Melissa Eddy**, Vienna to Frankfurt. **Paul F. Geitner**, Berlin to Brussels. **Ron Kampeas**, Jerusalem to Washington. **Jocelyn Noveck**, Jerusalem bureau chief to Paris news editor. **Ian A. Phillips**, London to New York international desk. **Ranjan Roy**, Kuala

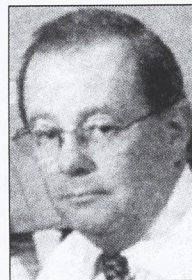
Lumpur news editor to New York international desk.

OPC member **Michael Elliott**, 49, a former editor of *Newsweek International*, now is editor-at-large for *Time*, writing a weekly column on globalization for the magazine's international editions. *Newsweek* won three OPC awards for foreign reporting during Elliott's tenure as its international editor. He joined *Newsweek* in 1993 as diplomatic editor, and left the magazine last year to join eCountries, a web service that focuses on the global economy (April 2000 *Bulletin*).

Xana Antunes, editor of the *New York Post* for a year and a half, left the newspaper in April and was replaced immediately by **Col Allan**, editor-in-chief of Australia's *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*. The three newspapers are owned by **Rupert Murdoch**. Quoting *Post* editors, **Jayson Blair** wrote in *The New York Times* that early in April Murdoch "made a rare appearance at a daily news meeting at the *Post* and was critical of news coverage and the placement of stories." An announcement said Antunes, 37, who grew up in Scotland, left the paper for personal reasons. She told the staff she would write a book. *The Times* said Antunes at the *Post* "presided over the introduction of new features and increased the newspaper's business coverage, including devoting a page to covering the fashion industry." Allan, 47, the new editor, "is expected to bring a rambunctious sensibility to New York's political and media worlds, according to those who have worked with him," *The Times* wrote. In the late 1970s, Allan was New York correspondent for Murdoch's Australian newspapers and earned the nickname "Canvas Back" for winding up on the floor during fights. His Australian papers were noted for such colorful headlines as "A Nation of Bastards" on an article about Australia's raising illegitimacy rates.



Xana Antunes



Col Allan

Michael R. Bloomberg, the global media tycoon, is giving money to three universities to support financial journalism. Columbia University and Baruch College at the City University of New York will each receive \$1.5 million to endow chairs in business journalism. The University of California at Berkeley will receive \$585,000 for a business journalism center.



Rupert Murdoch and wife Wendi Deng

Another international media mogul, **Rupert Murdoch**, and his wife, **Wendi Deng**, confirmed in May through his News Corporation spokesman that she is pregnant with their first child. Murdoch, 70, and Deng, 34, were married in 1999 after he divorced his second wife. He has four children from his earlier marriages. Wendi was based in Hong Kong as an executive in Murdoch's Asia TV network when they met.



Linda Vester and Glenn Hank Greenberg

Note these May weddings:

Linda Vester, 35, a Fox News Channel anchor who covered wars in the Persian Gulf, Rwanda and Somalia, and **Glenn Hank Greenberg**, 54, were married May 5 in New York City. Greenberg, co-founder and a managing director of Chieftain Capital Management, is the son of the late Hank Greenberg, first baseman for the Detroit Tigers and the Pittsburgh Pirates who was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1956.

Ann Cooper, 51, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, and **Larry Edward Heinzerling**, 55, AP's deputy international editor, were

married May 12 in Bear Mountain, New York. Until 1997, Cooper worked for National Public Radio and was a correspondent in Moscow and Johannesburg.

Candice Sue Millard, 33, an editor and writer for *National Geographic* in Washington, and **Mark Adams Uhlig**, 44, a *New York Times* foreign correspondent from 1988 to 1991, were married in Wichita, Kansas, May 12. Uhlig now is chairman of Uhlig Communications, a publishing company, and WelcomeLink Inc., a software development company, both based in Overland Park, Kansas.

◆
The New Yorker won a record five National Magazine Awards in May including one for former Paris correspondent **Adam Gopnik's** essay on the cultural divide between France and the United States.

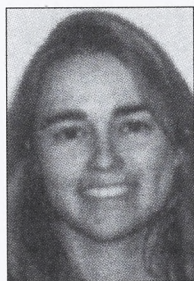
◆
New York City's old Chemists Club building at 52 East 41st Street, home of the OPC in the 1970s and 1980s, has reopened as the Dylan Hotel. "The ballroom remains, a soaring room with 24-foot ceilings that feels like a cross between a gentleman's club and a railroad waiting room from the golden age of travel," **William Grimes** wrote this spring in *The New York Times*. After the building was sold and remodeled into a hotel, the Chemists Club and later the OPC moved into our present digs, Club Quarters.

ORANGE PARK, Florida: **William D. (Bill) Miller, Jr.**, a former United Press correspondent in Asia and later a USIA officer, now lives in Florida. Bill covered the last year of the Korean War for UP and then was bureau manager in Taipei, Manila and Tokyo before joining USIA, serving in several Asian posts before retiring. His wife, **Judy Pan**, was a stewardess with the now defunct Civil Air Transport, an Asia regional airline founded by General Claire Chennault, who commanded the Flying Tigers in China during World War II. Bill's mother, the late **Caroline Miller**, won the 1934 Pulitzer Prize for fiction with her novel about poor settlers in Georgia before the Civil War, "Lamb in His Bosom" [Harper & Brothers].

TEHRAN: In May, an Iranian court lifted a ban on *Arya*, a reformist newspaper, and struck down a four-month prison sentence given last year to its publisher, **Mohammad Reza Zohdi**. But the court

finned him and upheld a ban preventing Zohdi from working in the media for two years.

TOKYO: **Cherry Norton** graduated in biochemical engineering from London

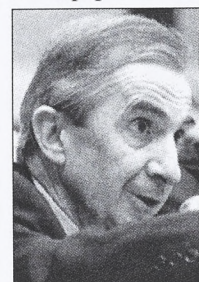


Cherry Norton

University in 1989, spent a year traveling overland from Britain to China and Taiwan and then worked on biotechnology processes for five years at ICI, a large chemical manufacturer in England. But at age 27 during what she calls "an early mid-life crisis," she changed careers, studying journalism at London's City University for a year, joining London's *Sunday Times* and later another London newspaper, *The Independent*. Returning to the *Sunday Times*, Cherry was posted to Tokyo early his year and joined the Foreign Correspondents' Club.

Another new Club member is **Waichi Sekiguchi** of *Nikkei Shimbun*, Japan's major economic daily. During the early 1990s, he reported from the paper's Washington bureau.

TUCSON, Arizona: The Associated Press and **Louis D. Boccardi**, its president and chief executive, won this year's John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Award for Freedom of the Press and the Public's Right to Know. The award is sponsored by the University of Arizona Journalism Department and the Arizona Newspaper Association Foundation. The



Louis D. Boccardi

award is named for **John Peter Zenger**, editor of the *New York Weekly Journal* who was jailed in 1734 by British colonial authorities on charges of seditious libel for criticizing the New York colonial governor, and Zenger's wife, who continued publishing his newspaper during his imprisonment. Zenger was tried and acquitted, a landmark in the history of press freedom.

VAN NUYS, California: **Norman Williams**, former UPI photo manager in Tokyo, read the April *OPC Bulletin* item explaining why *The New York Times* published a long obituary when

OPC member **Earnest (Asia Ernie) Hoberecht** died in 1999. Williams replied to the "People" column: "Strange as it may seem I was just recently working part time selling cemetery plots. Not as exciting as the UPI days." *The Times* ran a banner headline over the Hoberecht obit, not because of his UPI career in Asia from World War II to 1966, but because he wrote and published popular romance novels in Occupied Japan when import of foreign books was prohibited. For a movie, he taught a Japanese actress how to kiss Western style. Meanwhile, Williams reported he's now in international business with **Ronnie Ling**, longtime member of the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong.

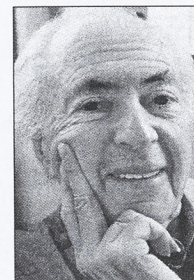


Pope John Paul II and Maria de Patricinio Macian Blaya

VATICAN CITY: **Maria de Patricinio Macian Blaya**, mother of slain AP television cameraman **Miguel Gil Moreno de Mora**, was received in audience by Pope John Paul II, who gave a papal blessing and a papal rosary to 10 of Gil's family members. Gil was killed last year while covering government-rebel fighting in Sierra Leone (June 2000 *Bulletin*).

IN MEMORY

OPC member **Tad Szulc**, 74, a former Associated Press correspondent in Brazil, United Press reporter at the United Nations and a *New York Times* correspondent in Spain, Portugal and Eastern Europe from 1953-1972, died May 21 at his home in Washington, D.C. In March, *Parade*, the nationally-distributed Sunday supplement magazine, published Szulc's article about his long battle against cancer that had metastasized from his colon to his liver and both lungs (May *Bulletin*).



Tad Szulc

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PEOPLE

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Szulc wrote 20 books and for the past 20 years was a *Parade* contributing editor.

Charles W. (Chuck) Taylor, 58, who covered crises in Haiti and the Middle East for ABC Radio, died May 6 of pulmonary embolism at his home in Rockville, Maryland. Taylor joined the network in New York City in 1966 and since 1982 worked out of ABC's Washington bureau. In recent years, he traveled with the White House Press Corps on presidential trips abroad.

Neang Seng, 38, who survived Khmer Rouge labor camps in his native Cambodia and became a *Time* newsroom assistant and photographer in the magazine's Washington bureau, died in a Washington, D.C. hospital May 6 of complications from colon cancer. During the early 1970s, his father, **Hout Seng**, was a driver for *Time* correspondents who were covering war in Cambodia. After the Pol Pot regime collapsed in 1979, the Seng family walked hundreds of miles to Thailand and were admitted to the United States in 1980. While working in *Time*'s Washington mailroom, Neang Seng learned photography and handled occasional assignments. In 1990, he

returned to Cambodia to work on a *Time* cover story and located his sister who had become separated from the family during the Pol Pot years. He helped her and her family settle in the Washington area in 1994.

German Sopena, 54, a prize-winning Argentine journalist and a former correspondent in Europe, was among 10 people killed April 28 in the crash of a Cessna plane. They were flying from Buenos Aires to southern Argentina for a weekend outing near a glacier in Patagonia. Sopena, who studied international politics at the Sorbonne in Paris, reported from Europe before joining the daily *Tiempo Argentina* in 1985. In 1986, he became chief editor of the economics section of Buenos Aires' *La Nacion* and was appointed the paper's chief managing editor in 1999. He received the Konex prize for distinguished economics reporting. An avid outdoorsman and environmental reporter, Sopena climbed the mountains, lakes and glaciers of Patagonia. He wrote three books including "La Patagonia Blanca" ("The White Patagonia.")

Allan Hall, 71, a British journalist who in 1972 dreamed up the annual race to ship newly-bottled Beaujolais

Nouveau around the world, died April 26 in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England. "As a columnist for *The Times* of London, Mr. Hall hit upon the idea of challenging readers to be among the first to put bottles of the year's new vintage on their tables," **Douglas Martin** wrote in



Allan Hall

The New York Times. "It was the beginning of a pell-mell annual rush to send the wine to celebrators from Japan to Africa, ideally in time for an early breakfast the next day. The means of transport have included elephant, parachute and motorized bathtub. In New York City, enthusiasts include a motorcycle gang that has made a tradition of meeting the first shipment at Kennedy International Airport." In 1988, the French daily *Figaro* called the race to put the wine on the table "the greatest marketing stroke since the end of World War II." In recent years, Hall lived in partial retirement in Suffolk, where a sign in his window read, "Drinking lessons daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m."

French freelance photographer **Brice Fleutiaux**, who was held hostage in Chechnya for eight months in 1999 and 2000, committed suicide April 24. He recently published a book on his experiences in captivity. "The [Paris] publisher said he had been suffering from severe depression," Reuters reported. Fleutiaux was captured in October 1999 when he arrived in the breakaway Caucasus territory to report on the conflict between Russian forces and rebels. He was released last June.

Ben Wright, 89, an OPC member since 1947, died April 10 at his home in Colorado Springs, Colorado. For many years up to his death, Wright was a trustee of the Correspondents Fund that provides financial help to correspondents in need. Originally named the Overseas Press Club Foundation, the Correspondents Fund evolved from money raised to purchase the old OPC building on East 41st Street. The Fund is administered by its own board



Ben Wright

Stephen Smith Replaced As U.S. News Editor

OPC Member Stephen G. Smith has been replaced as editor of *U.S. News & World Report* by Brian P. Duffy, the weekly newsmagazine's executive editor. Press accounts of the change in early June said Smith will remain with the magazine as a consultant with the title of editorial director.

Associated Press writer Gina Holland reported that *U.S. News*' "circulation fell 5.7 percent last year to 2.07 million, compared with 4 million *Time* readers and 3 million for *Newsweek*. *U.S. News* also had a 21 percent decline in advertising for the first three months of this year."

Duffy, 46, will be the eighth editor of *U.S. News* since real estate developer Mortimer B. Zuckerman bought the magazine in 1984.

Smith, 52, replaced James Fallows as editor in 1998. Smith was former editor of the *National Journal*, a weekly

on government and politics. He founded *Civilization* magazine and served as executive editor at *Newsweek* and a national editor at *Time*.

Firings among *U.S. News*' 250 editorial employees are expected and Smith reportedly told his staff before his dismissal that he wanted Zuckerman to reconsider proposed layoffs. Smith was quoted as saying he had no hard feelings for Zuckerman and that while "we had differences of opinion, we were always able to settle those amicably."

Zuckerman reportedly was pressing for more investigative reporting and Duffy has led efforts in that area.

Duffy first worked at the magazine as a reporter in 1986. He was national editor until 1998 when he left to work at the *Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He returned to *U.S. News* as executive editor last year.

and is unrelated to the present OPC Foundation that awards scholarships to college students.

An hour before leaving for a May vacation in Mexico, **Jim Greenfield**, president of the Correspondents Fund, told the "People" columnist that the Fund is giving \$5,000 to the OPC Foundation "not specifically in Ben's name, but I like to think it's in memory of Ben. He was a wonderful guy." **Elmer Lower**, former OPC member and Correspondents Fund trustee, commented: "Back in the 1940s, Ben along with **Clare Boothe Luce** and **Ed Murrow** was very active in raising money for the Club. He was a great PR man and a good friend." OPC member **Ed Jackson**, also a Fund trustee, recalled: "After he retired, Ben often traveled to New York from his home in Colorado to attend Correspondents Fund meetings."

Graduating in 1935, Wright worked his way through Eastern Michigan University by reporting for AP and the *Detroit Free Press*. He was a press liaison officer for the U.S. Ninth Air Force in Europe during World War II. After the war, he worked in public relations for American Airlines until 1949, when he joined Henry Holt & Company as magazine division vice president and publisher of *Field and Stream*. From 1960-1967, he was publisher of *This Week*, a Sunday supplement magazine syndicated to newspapers throughout the United States.

◆
Honorary OPC member **Lillian Maxine Frantz**, 89, widow of **Ralph Jules Frantz**, a *New York Herald Tribune* editor who joined the OPC at its second meeting in 1939, died Feb. 18 in Homestead, Florida. Ralph Frantz went to Europe in 1925 and was hired by *The Paris Tribune*, then the European edition of *The Chicago Tribune*, working up from reporter to managing editor. He returned to the United States in 1935 and spent the next 31 years as an editor with *The New York Herald Tribune*.

A few days after his death on Nov. 3, 1979, the OPC board made his widow an honorary member. A cellist, she taught the instrument and had been a member of the New Jersey Symphony, Colonial Symphony, Mountain Lakes Symphony, Montclair Operetta Club and several chamber music groups. She returned to college at age 54 to study library science, earning bachelor and master degrees, and then working in public libraries until retiring at age 72.

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

copter crash in Afghanistan while reporting for Herman's TV program about clearing land mines. He will donate some earnings from his book to Adopt-A-Minefield, a charity supported by the United Nations Association of the USA and the Better World Fund.

EUROPE

• In 1944 after she graduated from Smith College, United Press hired **Priscilla (Pitts) L. Buckley** as a copy girl in its New York bureau at \$18.50 a week. She quickly worked up to the radio news desk with a raise to \$27.50 and was transferred to the Paris bureau in 1953. Sister of **William F. Buckley** of the Buckley family's *National Review* magazine, Priscilla recalls her years with the wire service in "String of Pearls: On the News Beat in New York and Paris" [New York: St. Martin's]. She writes that she turned down a job offer with "security and a living salary, and opted for U.P., starvation wages and a wonderful life. Rich I did not become from the labor of my brow, but neither have I ever been bored."

Pressure on the New York desk was intense. She writes: "You had to have an ear, good news sense, and an excellent memory so that you could absorb the news that was bombarding you from all quarters and reshape it in your mind into a coherent story." In Paris, she wrote an occasional dispatch under the byline **P. L. Buckley** because the bureau was "still trying to conceal...that a woman had been hired on the Paris news staff." Her foreign assignment ended in 1956 when brother Bill urged her to return to New York and join the managing editor's desk at the *National Review*, where she worked for the next 35 years. Reviewing her book in *The Washington Post*, **Jonathan Yardley** wrote: "Like virtually every American who has had the good fortune to live in Paris for more than a few minutes, she has a wealth of memories and stories, almost all of the former happy and many of the latter amusing."

• When **Daniel Schorr** was 12 years old, a woman fell or jumped from the roof of his family's apartment house in the Bronx. He called police for more information and phoned a local newspaper that paid him \$5 for the news tip. He's been reporting and commenting on the news ever since. At age 18, he started with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was news editor of ANETA (Netherlands News

Agency) in New York during World War II and freelanced for *The New York Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and the *London Daily Mail*. He joined CBS News in 1953, broadcast



Daniel Schorr

from Washington for CNN in its early days and now at 84 is a news analyst at National Public Radio. He received OPC citations for broadcast reporting from the Soviet Union and won a 1963 OPC Award for best interpretation of foreign news.

In "Staying Tuned: A Life in Journalism" [New York: Pocket Books], Schorr recounts a career devoted largely to European news. He covered the Cold War in Germany, Poland and the Soviet Union, where he once asked Nikita Khrushchev the date the Central Committee would meet. In a whisper, the Soviet leader confided: "You can go on your vacation. If absolutely necessary, we will have the meeting without you." Schorr was stumped when General Dwight D. Eisenhower asked him if Luxembourg had a golf course.

Schorr had wanted to be a foreign correspondent for *The New York Times*. But he was turned him down, he writes, because *The Times* worried that a "disproportionate representative of Jews on the staff might hamper *Times* coverage of some future Middle East war." In the 1970s, a *Times* crossword puzzle asked for a match to "TV reporter." The answer: Daniel Schorr.

NORTH AMERICA

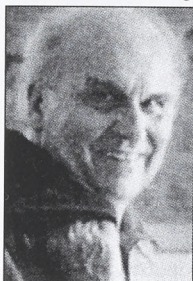
• OPC member **Rufus Goodwin**, who has been called "a street poet," publishes in the homeless newspaper, *Spare Change*, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In his latest book, "Soul Street" [Seattle, Washington: Educare Press], he views American society through the eyes of a homeless hero. Goodwin's publisher writes: "'Soul Street' is a dark mirror of our dreams, introducing a beggar of God, Crusty, whose hapless comedy is a grim reminder of our own good luck; a poignant juxtapositioning of neo-realism and magic realism against the fast lane of today's world. 'Soul Street' follows in the Quixotic tradition of the first rogue writer **Lazarillo de Tormes**, who initiated the tradition of the picaresque novel."

New Books

AFRICA

• Polish journalist **Ryszard Kapuscinski** investigated human conditions in the Soviet Union, Middle East, Iran and Africa. In "The Shadow of the Sun" [New York: Knopf], he writes about what he saw and experienced during 40 years in Africa. "This book is a marvel of humane, sorrowful and lucid observation,"

Richard Bernstein wrote in *The New York Times*. As a roving reporter for the Polish News Agency, Kapuscinski's



Ryszard Kapuscinski

African travels take him first to Ghana in 1957 when European imperialism was giving way to independent states. He visits the desert city of Timbuktu and a Sudan refugee settlement. He describes the slaughter of Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda. Of Liberia, created in 1822 by the American Colonization Society as a homeland for freed slaves, Kapuscinski writes: "Liberia is the voluntary continuation of a slave society by slaves who did not wish to abolish an unjust order, but wanted to preserve it, develop it and exploit it for their own benefit." He describes a two-hour videotape of the death-by-torture of Liberia's former president, Samuel Doe. Smaller things impress the author. When light plastic water jugs replaced heavy stone and earthenware jugs, children could carry water, relieving exhausted African women of that duty. "How much more time she now has for herself, for her household!" Kapuscinski writes.

ASIA

• OPC member **Steven L. Herman** is a seasoned foreign correspondent who has spent half his adult life in Asia. Now AP Radio correspondent in Tokyo, Steve has broadcast for BBC, CBS News, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK), Public Broadcasting System and Voice of America and written for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and other publications. He was president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, 1997-1998, and now is serving his third term as chairman of the Foreign Press In Japan, an organization that represents correspondents in arranging reporting facilities with the Japanese government. And he attended this year's OPC Awards Dinner.

Herman's latest novel, "Last Assignment" [Sublimity, Oregon: Firelight Publishing], describes the adventures of Lewis Cody, a wire service reporter.

Writing in the first person, Cody spends much time in bars, always on the outlook for young, available women, and recovering from hangovers. But bars make sense to this reporter. Arriving in Manila to cover a presidential election, Cody heads "to Ermita to probe deeply into the political gossip. Now others might criticize my strategy to hang out in the red-light district to prepare political forecasts, but anyone asserting that position has obviously never spent time covering such democratic exercises in futility in developing



Steven L. Herman

nations....It is among the beer drinkers and the cheap floozies where the accurate intelligence is to be gathered. Ask any correspondent worth his salt."

The book opens in Beijing. Cody picks up a Chinese woman in the Great Wall Bar, they repair to his hotel room, police arrive, he is jailed overnight, charged under a seldom used law "with illegal consorting and carnal knowledge with a Chinese woman" and is kicked out of China. Cody decides the Great Wall Bar woman was a police decoy set on him because he filed a story saying Supreme Leader Deng Xiao-ping was on his deathbed. From China, Cody's assignments take him to West Virginia's Wirt County (where he's told, "Instead of boring, we like to think of it as a peaceable county"), Tokyo ("Akira Kurosawa, the film director, once told me that Japanese can never appreciate this democracy, because it was imposed on them rather than fought for by the people for the people"), Suva ("Fiji's crumbling capital. Crumbling because the infrastructure was going to hell since the majority Fijians had decided to limit the rights of the minority Indians who had built up the economy") and finally to Manila to cover a presidential election ("a relatively calm pre-election period: only a few non-presidential candidates assassinated and several dozen innocent civilians cut down by bullets"). In Manila, Cody again is tricked by a beautiful woman and kidnapped by communist guerrillas

Herman dedicated his novel: "In memory of **Natasha Singh**, foreign correspondent, who died doing what she loved in Afghanistan." Singh was killed in a heli-

(Continued on Page 11)

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